

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 13, 2001**

The Tippecanoe County Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2001 at 2:00 P.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President David S. Byers, Vice President Connie Basham, Jeffrey A. Kemper, Jeffrey Kessler, and Kathy Vernon; Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Councilmember Margaret K. Bell was absent.)

President Byers called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then called upon Jeremy Steffens, Youth Pastor at First Assembly of God, to offer a prayer.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve the January 16, 2001 minutes as distributed, seconded by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

***FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Auditor Robert Plantenga***

Auditor Plantenga reported the 2001 uncommitted County General Funds through January 31, 2001 are \$1,647,518.71.

➤ Councilmember Ronald L. Fruitt entered the meeting.

***INTEREST STATEMENT: Treasurer Oneta Tolle***

Treasurer Tolle reported interest earned for December 2000 was \$735,708.10 and for January 2001 was \$559,409.41. MBIA interest for December 2000 was \$28,875.37 and January 2001 was \$27,811.19.

Auditor Plantenga pointed out that the Cum Bridge Fund interest for 2001 is included in the County General Fund interest. This will continue until the total amount diverted reaches \$1 million per the agreement with the Commissioners during the 2001 Budget Hearings. Mrs. Tolle mentioned that General Drain Improvement Fund #95 will be able to retain its own interest beginning in 2001.

Mrs. Tolle also informed the Council that the Commissioners will be asked to amend Ord. 82-16-CM to increase the charge for returned checks from \$10.00 to \$20.00.

***SUPERIOR COURT III: Tabled in January***

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$1,165,224.00**

633,975.00	Institutional Care (Boys' School) (prior years)
178,643.00	Institutional Care (Boys' School) (current year)
303,937.00	Institutional Care (Girls' School) (prior years)
48,669.00	Institutional Care (Girls' School) (current year)

Councilmember Kemper reported that he has the names of contacts at both institutions but is not ready to take this request off the table today. He hopes to have a recommendation for an appropriation by the March meeting. Councilmember Basham commented that the County needs to lobby the Legislature to remove costs for juvenile detention from the County's responsibility.

***MAGISTRATE: Wayne Fountain***

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$5,591.00**

4,084.00	Court Reporter
313.00	Social Security
194.00	Retirement
1,000.00	Travel & Training

Mr. Fountain reported that his new Court Reporter who transferred from Superior Court V has a greater longevity than his former Court Reporter who transferred to Superior Court VI. The requested appropriation will cover the difference in salary. The Salary Ordinance for this position was approved by the Council at the January meeting.

Mr. Fountain reported that the Council cut his Travel & Training line item to \$0.00 for 2001 because he does not attend training sessions that require a fee. Because the Court Reporter is

entitled to claim mileage to the Jail from the Courthouse and back he requested \$1,000.00 to cover this expense. He said he didn't think his previous Court Reporter claimed this although she was entitled.

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve the Additional Appropriation for the Court Reporter position, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.
- Councilmember Kemper moved to an appropriation of \$1,000.00 for Travel & Training, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.

***BUILDING COMMISSION: Building Commissioner Ron Highland***

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$1,000.00**

1,000.00 Maintenance & Repair

**TRANSFER: \$300.00**

From:	01-29-171600	Part-time	300.00
To:	01-29-327200	Maintenance & Repair	300.00

Mr. Highland explained that it was necessary to replace two (2) in-house mobile radios in January at a cost of \$1,009.00 installed. He requested an appropriation of \$1,000.00 as well as a transfer of \$300.00. If the Council chooses to only allow the transfer, he thinks he might be able to transfer sufficient funds from other accounts later in the year to pay the balance owed. He said the vendor is willing to wait for the remaining \$849.00 payment as long as it is paid this year.

Auditor Plantenga interjected that we prefer not to transfer from Personal Services line items such as Part-time in case those funds are needed to cover an extended absence by an employee.

Councilmember Kessler said we should pay outstanding bills or it might reflect poorly on the County.

- Councilmember Kessler moved to appropriate \$1,000.00 to Maintenance & Repair, seconded by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

***BUILDING COMMISSION: Unsafe Building Fund #24***

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$10,000.00**

10,000.00 Unsafe Building

Mr. Highland reported that the Unsafe Building Fund has a current balance of \$13,013.07 and he currently has four (4) bids ranging from \$12,000 to \$54,000 to demolish an unsafe structure located in Odell. He can file a lien on the property to get reimbursement for the demolition cost but he is unsure if the County can get full reimbursement from this particular property. If the County pays \$12,000.00 for this demolition, there won't be enough in the account to demolish another structure. Mr. Highland wants to increase the working balance in this fund to approximately \$50,000 over a period of years to allow taking on more than one demolition project at one time.

When Mr. Highland said this particular structure is owned by four (4) financial institutions, Councilmember Kessler asked if they will be responsible for taking the building down. Mr. Highland responded that they would but, if they do nothing and the County has to take it down, he can only file a tax lien on the property. Attorney Luhman said this may be a circumstance where the County cannot recoup the cost because the demolition expense may be more than the property is worth.

Councilmember Kessler thought the bank might take down the structure as a service to the community. If not, he asked if the Volunteer Fire Department would be willing to demolish it. Mr. Highland said he has notified the Volunteer Fire Department about the building but they are "pretty picky" about what they take down. Councilmember Kessler observed that it may be too easy for financial institutions and individuals to do nothing and to let the demolition fall to the County.

If this Fund is depleted to approximately \$1,000.00 and another building needs demolition, Councilmember Kemper asked if the need for funds will be immediate. Mr. Highland responded that it can take 60 to 90 days to get through the process before demolition funds are needed. He noted that most unsafe structures have been demolished by the owners.

Commissioner Benson said the issue of the unsafe structure location in Odell has been handled. The reason for Mr. Highland's request is that, after taking bids for the Odell structure, they now

realize the need to accumulate a substantial balance because the cost can be much more than \$10,000.00.

Auditor Plantenga observed that there is no funding source in the Unsafe Building Ordinance. He expressed doubt that funds can be transferred from the General Fund to the Unsafe Building Fund. The last time money was put in this Fund, it was done by claim from Unappropriated County General Funds but the State Board of Accounts has said this is not proper. He suggested adding a line item and appropriating funds to the Building Commission's County General 2002 Budget from which a claim can be written to the Unsafe Building Fund.

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to table this request until the Auditor and Attorney work out the details, seconded by Councilmember Kessler; motion carried.

**COMMISSIONERS: Tippecanoe County Soil & Water Conservation District Board Chairperson Kathy Dale**

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$5,383.00**

5,000.00 Part-time  
383.00 Social Security

Mrs. Dale requested the appropriation because no funding for Part-time was included in the 2001 Budget. This position will assist in meeting the requirements of Ord. 93-18-CM for erosion and sediment control and assistance provided to the Area Plan Commission. In addition, this position will assist office staff with ongoing conservation programs, erosion control, and customer assistance. Mrs. Dale noted that \$5,000.00 of the salary for the Erosion Control Specialist was returned to the County due to early termination of the contract.

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve \$5,000.00 for Part-time and \$383.00 for Social Security, seconded by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

**COURT SERVICES: Fund 11**

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$12,000.00**

12,000.00 Drug Screens

**COURT SERVICES: Fund 07**

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$12,500.00**

9,000.00 Capital Outlay  
3,500.00 Overtime, Case Mgr.

- Since no one was present to speak about these requests, Councilmember Kemper moved to table the request until March, seconded by Councilmember Kessler; motion carried.

**SUPERIOR COURT: Bailiff Brooke Kerner**

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$11,006.00**

11,006.00 Capital Outlay

Miss Kerner said the request includes \$3,670.00 for Recording Equipment for the Superior Court Courtroom and \$7,336.00 for three (3) computers and a printer for the Auxiliary Courtroom.

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve the appropriation of \$11,006.00 for Superior Court, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.

**AREA PLAN: Director Jim Hawley**

<u>SALARY ORDINANCE</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Full Time	Senior Planner (3)	1,916.63/ 1,974.13	139,377.00

Mr. Hawley explained that the person who held the Principal Planner position recently resigned to relocate. Because Mr. Hawley does not plan to fill the Principal Planner position, he would like to make it equivalent to a comprehensive planning Sr. Planner V position. He also wants to elevate a Transportation Planner position to a supervisory Sr. Transportation Planner V position to bring the total number of Sr. Planners to three (3). Mr. Hawley said the job descriptions have been adjusted and no additional funding will be necessary

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve the Salary Ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

**CARY HOME: Executive Director**

<u>SALARY ORDINANCE</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Full Time	House Supervisor (3)	1,001.96/ 1,152.79	76,564.00

Ms Humphrey said when she requested the approval of the Salary Ordinance for two (2) House Supervisor positions last month, she did not take into account that the position is needed twenty four hours a day. She requested approval of the Salary Ordinance for a third House Supervisor that requires no additional funding.

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve the Salary Ordinance for a House Supervisor, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.

By request of Councilmember Basham, Ms Humphrey briefly discussed the creation of an Emergency Shelter Care Unit that is planned at Cary Home for violent juveniles who need to be taken from their homes to a safe place. It will be a locked unit with 15 beds where the juvenile can be housed a maximum of 60 days.

**PROBATION:**

<u>SALARY ORDINANCE</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Full Time	Probation Officer - SHOCAP	1,242.79	22,371.00

This Salary Ordinance for a SHOCAP Tracker, a Probation Officer who will work with juveniles. Funded by a JAIBG Grant, the position will be in effect for 6 months.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the Salary Ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER: Randy Fairchild**

Mr. Fairchild said the Veterans Service Office supplies American flags for veteran's graves on Memorial Day at a cost of approximately \$2,000.00. He currently funds their purchase from the Burial of Servicemen Account but asked if the Council thinks it should be paid from another account.

Councilmember Kemper suggested increasing the Office Supplies 2002 Budget request to cover this expense.

Mr. Fairchild apprised the Council that he is trying to raise funds to purchase a new van for transporting veterans to Indianapolis and Danville, IL. The current van is a 1994 with 124,000 miles. Through a DAV Program, he can purchase a new Ford van for \$15,000. He has commitments of \$4,000 from the local DAV, \$1,000 from the 40 & 8, and \$7,500 from Eli Lilly over a three year period. He thinks he can raise the remainder. Since he will only receive \$2,500 from Lilly this year, he said it may be necessary to ask for an additional appropriation. No opposition was expressed by Council members.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**EARLY INTERVENTION REPORT**

DFC Director David Ling asked Council members to review the report with the hope of approval in March.

**TIPPECANOE YOUTH CENTER COMMITTEE**

As a Committee member, Councilmember Basham distributed a schedule of visits they will make to Youth Centers around the State.

**UPDATE: EDIT & Cum Cap Funds Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer Weston**

Mrs. Weston distributed a printout of estimated balances in the EDIT and Cum Cap Funds for 2001. It includes the cash balance as of 1/1/01, the working balance, anticipated additional appropriation requests, and concludes with the balances if the appropriations are approved. The update also shows the status of projects in progress as well as proposed amendments to the EDIT and Cum Cap Plans for 2001.

***PUBLIC COMMENT***

George Lumley, 4343 US 52 S, Laf.: Mr. Lumley is a member of the Farm Bureau Board and was asked by the members to represent them today. He said Farm Bureau has worked hard the past two to three years to reduce County taxes and does not agree with the Farm Bureau President's statement in the Journal & Courier that Farm Bureau favors the tax increase for the Library. He said taxpayers need relief and he believes there are other avenues for funding. He opposes additional tax for the Library and the Solid Waste District.

***ADJOURNMENT***

- Councilmember Kessler moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.

The next County Council Working Session will be held at 2:00 P.M., Thursday, March 8, 2001.  
The next County Council meeting will be held at 2:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 13, 2001.

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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David S. Byers, President

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Ronald L. Fruitt

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Connie Basham, Vice President

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Jeffrey A. Kemper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret K. Bell

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Kessler

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Vernon